

§ 831.13 Flow and dissemination of accident or incident information.

(a) Release of information during the field investigation, particularly at the accident scene, shall be limited to factual developments, and shall be made only through the Board Member present at the accident scene, the representative of the Board's Office of Public Affairs, or the investigator-in-charge.

(b) All information concerning the accident or incident obtained by any person or organization participating in the investigation shall be passed to the IIC through appropriate channels before being provided to any individual outside the investigation. Parties to the investigation may relay to their respective organizations information necessary for purposes of prevention or remedial action. However, no information concerning the accident or incident may be released to any person not a party representative to the investigation (including non-party representative employees of the party organization) before initial release by the Safety Board without prior consultation and approval of the IIC.

[53 FR 15847, May 4, 1988, as amended at 62 FR 3808, Jan. 27, 1997]

§ 831.14 Proposed findings.

(a) *General.* Any person, government agency, company, or association whose employees, functions, activities, or products were involved in an accident or incident under investigation may submit to the Board written proposed findings to be drawn from the evidence produced during the course of the investigation, a proposed probable cause, and/or proposed safety recommendations designed to prevent future accidents.

(b) *Timing of submissions.* To be considered, these submissions must be received before the matter is calendared for consideration at a Board meeting. All written submissions are expected to have been presented to staff in advance of the formal scheduling of the meeting. This procedure ensures orderly and thorough consideration of all views.

(c) *Exception.* This limitation does not apply to safety enforcement cases handled by the Board pursuant to part

821 of this chapter. Separate *ex parte* rules, at part 821, subpart J, apply to those proceedings.

[62 FR 3808, Jan. 27, 1997]

PART 835—TESTIMONY OF BOARD EMPLOYEES

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 49 U.S.C. 1441; and 49 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 55 FR 41541, Oct. 12, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 835.1 Purpose.

This part prescribes the policies and procedures regarding the testimony of employees of the National Transportation Safety Board (Board) in suits or actions for damages and criminal proceedings arising out of transportation accidents. The purpose of this part is to ensure that the time of Board employees is used only for official purposes, to avoid embroiling the Board in controversial issues that are not related to its duties, to avoid spending public funds for non-Board purposes, to preserve the impartiality of the Board, and to prohibit the discovery of opinion testimony.

§ 835.2 Definitions.

Accident for purposes of this part includes "incident."

Board's accident report means the report containing the Board's determinations, including the probable cause of an accident, issued either as a narrative report or in a computer format (briefs of accidents). Pursuant to section 701(e) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1441(e)) (FA Act) and section 304(c) of the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 (49 U.S.C. 1903(c)) (Safety Act), no part of these reports may be admitted as evidence or used in any suit or action for